

JUVENILE ARREST RATES

NOTES

STATEWIDE:
The following comparison uses the formula of felony arrest rates per 100,000 persons ages 10 to 17. In 1999, the felony arrest rate in California (CA) for property crimes was 852 arrests per 100,000 juveniles compared to 807 for Orange County (OC). Drug offense arrest rates were 171 arrests per 100,000 juveniles for CA compared to 121 for OC. Violent offense arrest rates were 493 for CA and 287 for OC. Sex offense arrest rates were 44 for CA and 27 for OC. Weapons offense arrests were 130 per 100,000 juveniles for CA compared to 113 for OC.¹

RELATED INDICATORS:
• Substance Abuse Treatment
• Developmental Disabilities

Indicator

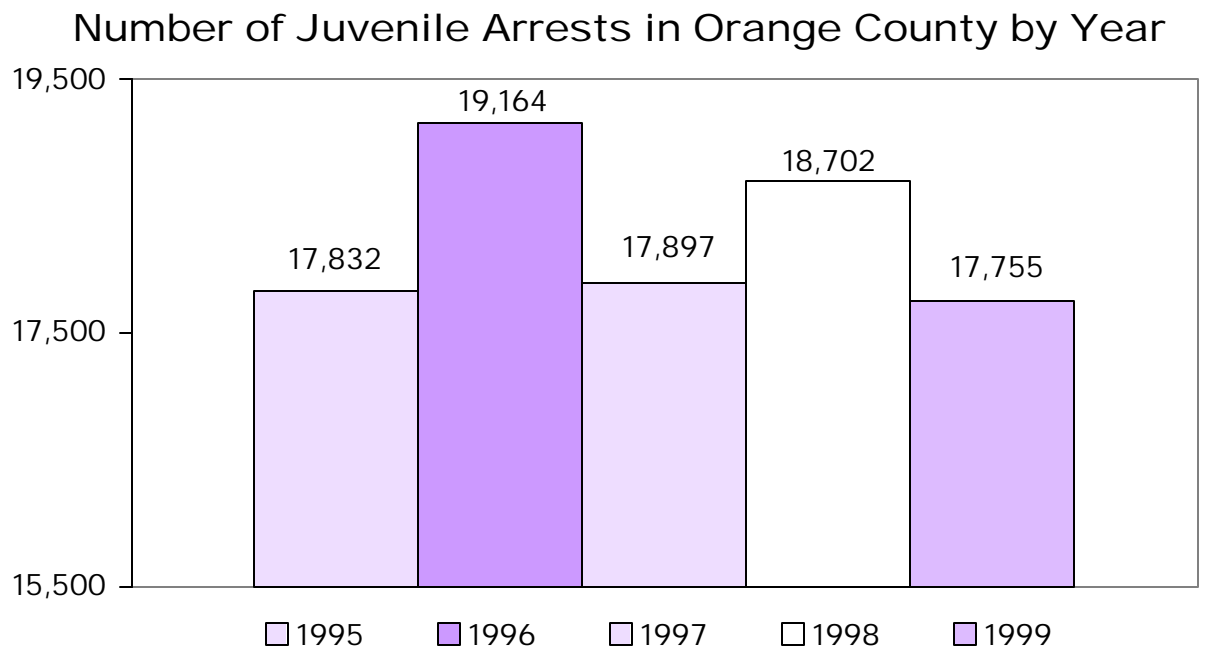
Number of juvenile arrests, ages 10-17

Definition

Total number of juvenile arrests (ages 10-17) for misdemeanor and felony offenses.

Findings

In 1999, there were 17,755 juvenile arrests in Orange County, of which 834 were violent felony arrests. Of the total juvenile arrests for violent felony crimes, assault arrests were the highest at 571. Other juvenile felony arrests for violent crimes include robbery at 229, homicide with 15, forcible rape with 13, and 6 arrests made for kidnapping.



Number of Juvenile Arrests Statewide

California	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
	255,198	274,195	276,520	269,959	258,125

JUVENILE ARREST RATES

Juvenile Felony Arrests: Violent Crimes

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	% Change	
						'95 to '99	'98 to '99
Homicide	26	11	15	22	15	-42%	-32%
Forcible Rape	18	19	19	16	13	-28%	-19%
Robbery	414	378	324	264	229	-45%	-13%
Assault	580	559	592	600	571	-2%	-5%
Kidnap	4	7	5	10	6	50%	-40%
TOTAL	1,042	974	955	912	834	-20%	-9%

Trends

From 1995 to 1999, the total number of juvenile arrests has fluctuated between a low of 17,755 (1999) and a high of 19,164 (1996). Between 1998 and 1999, there was a 5% decline in juvenile arrests primarily accounted for by an 11% decrease in felony arrests. Likewise, misdemeanor arrests declined 2% and status offense arrests fell 9%. Status offenses are acts that are an offense only when committed by a juvenile, such as truancy or curfew violations. Within violent felony crimes, the largest drops over one year (1998 to 1999) occurred for kidnapping, 40%, and homicide, 32%. Arrests for forcible rape and robbery exhibited decreases of 19% and 13% respectively. Assault had a smaller decrease of 5%. It should be noted that although violent felony crime arrests decreased 20% since 1995, the number of violent felony arrests in 1999 was 30% higher than ten years prior.

Summary

The trends observed in juvenile crime for Orange County are similar to those exhibited at the national level, with the most encouraging finding being the recent declines in violent crime arrests. In Orange County, the growth in juvenile violent felony crime arrests that began in 1990 reached its peak in 1995 and has been declining each year since.

Implications

With a 20% projected increase between 2000 and 2005 for the County's youth population aged 10-17,³ some criminal justice leaders have predicted a return to increases in delinquency rates through the first decade of the new century. Others, however, counter this perspective by citing the positive impact of the current economy and the implementation of additional after-school programs, youth development programs, and the County's "8% programs" aimed at the percentage of youth offenders who are at highest risk of returning as repeat offenders. The overall reduction in violent juvenile crime is seen as an important indication that "demography need not be destiny." As promising as this trend is, though, the longer-term perspective supports the need to expand these programs to further reduce juvenile violence and provide a positive environment for youth to reach their full potential.

NOTES



SEE
SUPPLEMENTAL
TABLES FOR
ADDITIONAL
DATA

NATIONWIDE:

In 1999, law enforcement agencies made an estimated 2.5 million arrests of persons under the age of 18.

Of all arrests nationwide, 17% of all arrests involved juveniles. There were 366 violent crimes arrests for every 100,000 youth ages 10 through 17 in the U.S.

Similarly, there were 1,844 arrests for property crimes, 668 drug abuse arrests and 626 alcohol violation arrests for every 100,000 persons ages 10 to 17.²

DATA SOURCE:

Orange County
Probation
Department

NOTES:

¹California Criminal Justice Profile, 1999, Statewide and Orange County, California Department of Justice

²OJJDP, Statistical Briefing Book

³Center for Demographic Research, 2001

SUPPLEMENTAL TABLES: SAFE HOMES & COMMUNITIES

Indicator

Referrals to the Probation Department

Definition

Juveniles (ages 10-18*) referred to the Orange County Probation Department whose cases received final disposition in the years 1995 through 1999, and the totals of these juvenile referrals broken down by offense for which the juveniles were arrested by age of the juveniles, type of final case disposition and rate of incarceration per 100,000 juveniles.

Total Juveniles (Ages 10-18) Referred to the Orange County Probation Department Whose Cases Received Final Disposition in the Years 1995 through 1999

Juveniles Referred to OC Probation	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Total Case Dispositions	12,186	11,565	12,109	12,506	12,033

*In contrast to the arrest data, which includes juveniles ages 10-17, with 18 year olds handled by the Juvenile Court as adult arrests, the Orange County Probation Department data is based upon all 10-18 year olds whose cases are handled by the Juvenile Court. Since the cancellation of the Statewide Juvenile Court Probation Statistical System in October 1990, complete data for comparison purposes is no longer available.

Sources: Orange County Probation Department.
California State Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit.
Bureau of Criminal Statistics Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical Report-Orange County Automated Replacement System.
Center for Demographic Research, California State University, Fullerton.

SUPPLEMENTAL TABLES: SAFE HOMES & COMMUNITIES

Total Juvenile Referrals Broken Down by Offense for which the Juveniles were Arrested

Offense	1995		1996		1997		1998		1999	
	No.	% of Total	No.	% of Total	No.	% of Total	No.	% of Total	No.	% of Total
Homicide	39	0.32%	25	0.22%	19	0.16%	21	0.17%	21	0.17%
Manslaughter-Vehicular	3	0.02	2	0.02	2	0.02	3	.02	1	0.01
Forcible Rape	23	0.19	19	0.16	22	0.18	20	0.16	22	0.18
Robbery	445	3.65	444	3.84	358	2.96	331	2.65	249	2.07
Assault	654	5.37	695	6.01	634	5.24	721	5.77	617	5.13
Total Violent Crimes	1,164	9.55	1,185	10.25	1,035	8.55	1,096	8.76	910	7.56
Burglary	1,234	10.13	1,239	10.71	1,268	10.47	1,353	10.82	1,363	11.33
Theft	708	5.81	733	6.34	679	5.61	630	5.04	657	5.46
Motor Vehicle Theft	628	5.15	478	4.13	431	3.56	489	3.91	323	2.68
Forgery/Checks/Access Card	48	0.39	55	0.48	31	0.26	26	0.21	37	0.31
Arson	43	0.35	57	0.49	48	0.40	61	0.49	32	0.27
Total Property Crimes	2,661	21.84	2,562	22.15	2,457	20.29	2,559	20.46	2,412	20.04
Narcotics	142	1.17	159	1.37	152	1.26	127	1.02	95	0.79
Marijuana	62	0.51	94	0.81	89	0.73	92	0.74	89	0.74
Dangerous Drugs	248	2.04	137	1.18	210	1.73	211	1.69	169	1.40
Other Drug Violations	1	0.01	1	0.01	5	0.04	4	0.03	5	0.04
Total Drug Crimes	453	3.72	391	3.38	456	3.77	434	3.47	358	2.98
All Other	818	6.71	785	6.79	898	7.42	875	7.00	928	7.71
Total Felony Level	5,096	41.82%	4,923	42.57%	4,846	40.02%	4,964	39.69%	4,608	38.29%

Sources: Orange County Probation Department.
California State Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit.
Bureau of Criminal Statistics Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical Report-Orange County
Automated Replacement System.
Center for Demographic Research, California State University, Fullerton.

Total Number and Percent of Juvenile Referrals by Age

Age	1995		1996		1997		1998 ¹		1999	
	No.	% of Total	No.	% of Total	No.	% of Total	No.	% of Total	No.	% of Total
15.5 years & Under	3,347	27.47%	3,137	27.12%	3,192	26.36%	4,138	33.09%	3,052	25.36%
Over 15.5 years	8,839	72.53%	8,428	72.88%	8,917	73.64%	8,368	66.91%	8,981	74.64%
Total	12,186		11,565		12,109		12,506		12,033	

¹1998 data updated
Sources: Orange County Probation Department.
California State Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit.
Bureau of Criminal Statistics Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical Report-Orange County
Automated Replacement System.
Center for Demographic Research, California State University, Fullerton.

SUPPLEMENTAL TABLES: SAFE HOMES & COMMUNITIES

Total Number and Percent of Juvenile Referrals by Final Case Disposition*

Final Case Disposition	1995		1996		1997		1998		1999	
	No.	% of Total	No.	% of Total	No.	% of Total	No.	% of Total	No.	% of Total
Closed/Dismissed	4,884	40.08%	4,750	41.07%	5,041	41.63%	5,189	41.49%	4,965	41.26%
Informal Probation W&I 654A W&I 275A: Referral to Peer Court contract Diversion Programs	1,172	9.62	951	8.22	1,485	12.26	1,465	11.71	1,601	13.31
Formal Probation as a Ward of the Juvenile Court	2,426	19.91	2,122	18.35	2,063	17.04	2,353	18.81	2,265	18.82
Formal Probation Incarceration: County Institution (Juvenile Hall or an Open Institution)	2,990	24.54	2,919	25.24	2,814	23.24	2,852	22.81	2,720	22.60
Incarceration: State Institution (CA Youth Authority)	173	1.42	222	1.92	146	1.21	142	1.14	99	0.82
Other Disposition**	541	4.44	601	5.20	560	4.62	505	4.04	383	3.18
Total	12,186		11,565		12,109		12,506		12,033	

Total Number and Rate Per 100,000 Juveniles Incarcerated in County Institutions and the California Youth Authority*

Orange County Juveniles Incarcerated	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Total Number of Juveniles Incarcerated in County & State Institutions	3,163	3,141	2,960	2,994	2,819
Rate per 100,000***	1,074	1,042	959	951	866

*In contrast to the arrest data, which includes ages under 18 for juveniles, with 18 year olds and above handled by the Juvenile Court included in the adult arrest data, the Orange County Probation Department data is based upon counting all cases handled by the Juvenile Court which may include a few individuals who are 18 years and older. Since the cancellation of the Statewide Juvenile Court Probation Statistical System in October, 1990, complete data for comparison purposes is no longer available.

**Other dispositions include remands of juvenile cases to adult court, out-of-county transfers and others. Previously this category included placements in other public and private facilities. These cases are now included in the ward category.

***The rate per 100,000 is based on juvenile population statistics provided by the Center for Demographic Research at California State University, Fullerton and California State Department of Finance (Orange County Projections January 1999).

Sources: Orange County Probation Department.

California State Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit.

Bureau of Criminal Statistics Juvenile Court and Probation Statistical Report-Orange County Automated Replacement System.

Center for Demographic Research, California State University, Fullerton.

SUPPLEMENTAL TABLES: SAFE HOMES & COMMUNITIES

County of Orange Juvenile Arrest Trends

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	% Change 95/99	% Change 98/99
A. Overview							
Felony Arrests	5,080	5,052	4,609	4,537	4047	-20%	-11%
Misdemeanor Arrest	10,095	11,169	10,570	11,417	11,204	11%	-2%
Arrest for Status Offenses	2,657	2,943	2,718	2,748	2,504	-6%	-9%
TOTAL JUVENILE ARRESTS	17,832	19,164	17,897	18,702	17,755	0%	-5%
B. Juvenile Felony Arrest Trends-- Significant Changes							
<u>VIOLENT CRIMES</u>	1,042	974	955	912	834	-20%	-9%
Homicide	26	11	15	22	15	-42%	-32%
Forcible Rape	18	19	19	16	13	-28%	-19%
Robbery	414	378	324	264	229	-45%	-13%
Assault	580	559	592	600	571	-2%	-5%
Kidnap	4	7	5	10	6	50%	-40%
<u>PROPERTIES CRIMES</u>	3,068	3,039	2,656	2,644	2,348	-23%	-11%
Burglary	1,400	1,593	1,381	1,463	1,423	2%	-3%
Theft	855	712	683	598	488	-43%	-18%
Auto Theft	717	613	491	510	339	-53%	-34%
Forgery	67	59	45	36	61	-9%	69%
Arson	29	62	56	37	37	28%	0%
<u>DRUG CRIMES</u>	403	430	456	393	352	-13%	-10%
<u>SEX CRIMES</u>	80	98	84	97	78	-3%	-20%
<u>OTHER FELONIES</u>	93	96	87	125	100	8%	-20%
<u>WEAPONS</u>	381	406	358	355	329	-14%	-7%
<u>OTHERS</u>	13	9	13	11	6	-54%	-45%
C. Juvenile Misdemeanor Arrest Trends-- Significant Changes							
Assault & Battery	987	966	884	944	911	-8%	-3%
Vandalism	887	843	737	939	828	-7%	-12%
Weapons	200	174	113	84	89	-56%	6%
Drunk	146	216	175	172	213	46%	24%
Liquor Laws	609	736	548	836	811	33%	-3%
Marijuana and Other Drugs	1,249	1,341	1,352	1,515	1,497	20%	-1%
Trespassing	511	847	558	506	451	-12%	-11%

Source: Criminal Justice Statistics Center, California Department of Justice.